



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

APR 30 2002

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In re Application of:

Emmanuelle GUILLOT et al.

Serial No.: 09/529,217

Art Unit: 1634

Filed: June 5, 2000

Examiner: Jehanne Souaya

For: MEANS FOR QUALITATIVE AND
QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF
MICROBIAL POPULATIONS
POTENTIALLY PRESENT IN A
SAMPLE

Atty Docket: 21029/0196

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Box AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated February 27, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5-7 and 14 to read as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of qualitative and quantitative analysis of microbial population(s) comprising:

contacting microorganisms present in a sample with at least one specific probe to form a probe-target complex, wherein the specific probe recognizes a RNA target sequence under conditions favorable to *in situ* hybridization in whole cells,

extracting the hybridized specific probes from their target by adding a denaturing agent to denature the probe-target complex, and